Group III, claims 6, 15 (in part), and 19-22 (in part), drawn to branched peptides.

Group IV, claims 7 and 8, drawn to methods of chemically synthesizing peptides.

Group V, claims 9-11, drawn to recombinant methods of producing peptides.

Group VI, claims 12, 15 (in part), and 19-22 (in part), drawn to antibodies.

Group VI*, claims 13, 15 (in part), and 19-22 (in part), drawn to anti-idiotype antibodies.

Group VII, claims 14, 15 (in part), drawn to immunotoxin molecules.

(Note that Applicant believes that there is a typographical error in the Groups listed by the Examiner, specifically Group VI was listed twice. Applicant will respond based on this assumption and will refer to the groups as indicated above, that is as Group VI and Group VI. If Applicant's understanding is in error, clarification is requested).

B. Response to Examiner's requirement

The Examiner has alleged that:

> [t]he inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:
>
> Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.475(d), the ISA/US considers that where multiple products and processes are claimed, the main invention shall consist of the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims and the first recited invention of each of the other categories related thereto. Accordingly, the main invention (Group I) comprises the first-recited product, linear peptides. Further pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.475(d), the ISA/US considers that any feature which the subsequently recited products and methods share with the main invention does not constitute a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 and that each of such products and methods accordingly defines a separate invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction requirement.

PCT Rule 13.1 and 13.2 reads as follows:

> ***13.1: Requirement***
> *The international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention").*
>
> ***13.2: Circumstances in Which the Requirement of Unity of Invention Is to Be Considered Fulfilled***
> *Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international*

application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

According to PCT Rule 13.2 "unity of invention" is fulfilled "when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features." Furthermore Rule 13.2 defines "special technical features" as "those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions considered as a whole, makes over the prior art."

Applicant asserts that, in accordance with the following remarks, claims 1-6, 14-15, and 19-23 (Groups I-III), as currently amended, have the required "unity of invention" as defined in PCT Rule 13.1-13.2. As stated at page 8, line 27 through page 9, line 1, the invention is directed to "peptides that contain arginine residues that are immediately followed by a glycine residue, and wherein at least one arginine residue is methylated or dimethylated". Using the definition provided in PCT Rule 13.2 the "technical relationship" among the claims listed as Groups I-III, is that all of these claims are related in that they recite peptides which are recognized by antibodies characteristic of specific diseases (especially certain autoimmune diseases). Furthermore, the "technical relationship" among these claims is governed by the same "special technical feature" (i.e. the arginine/glycine dimers wherein the arginine is methylated or dimethylated) in each of the claimed peptides. Moreover, also in accordance with PCT Rule 13.2, this "special technical feature" "*defines a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.*" Thus Groups I-III meet the requirement for "Unity of Invention" as defined under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2.

It is Applicant's contention that no undue burden will be imposed on the Examiner in searching for claims directed to linear, branched, and circular peptides. Applicant believes that the Examiner will simply have to conduct a single search for the claimed sequences (*i.e.*, peptides comprising the R/G dimers with methylated or dimethylated arginine). No additional

searching will be required to determine the novelty or obviousness of branched or circular peptides containing these sequences. All pertinent art will be identified by the search for the claimed sequences.

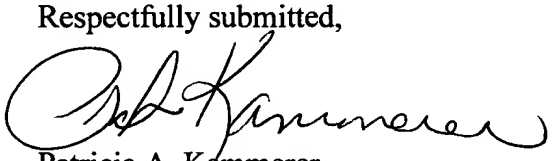
Additionally, Applicant wishes to point out that there was no holding of lack of "unity of invention" during the international examination phase for this application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is Applicant's assertion that claims 1-6, 14-15, and 19-23, as currently amended, are drawn to inventions which are so linked as to form a "general inventive concept" within the meaning of PCT Rule 13 and to, therefore, possess "unity of invention" as required by PCT Rule 13 and 37 C.F.R. §1.475(d). Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner modify the Restriction Requirement so that claims 1-6, 14-15, and 19-23 will be examined together in the instant application.

In any event, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute claims 1-3, 5, 15 (in part), 19-22 (in part) and 23, drawn to linear peptides, *i.e.*, the Group I claims, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.143.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 787-1438 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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